

Congressman King votes in favor of enacting Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama.

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Steve King (R-IA), a member of both the House Agriculture Committee and the House Small Business Committee, released the following statement after today voting in favor of enacting three pending Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. All three Free Trade Agreements passed the House of Representatives this evening.

"The Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama will provide a boost to Iowa's economy by opening overseas markets to Iowa's goods," said King. "The benefits of increased trade with these countries will be particularly evident in Iowa's agriculture sector, as these three FTA's are expected to increase Iowa's agriculture exports by \$162 million a year and to create over 1,400 new agriculture related jobs in the state. I am pleased to support these important trade deals, and I look forward to Iowa receiving the economic benefits their enactment will provide."

According to an analysis prepared by the Iowa Farm Bureau, the state of Iowa will see an increase in direct agricultural exports of \$162.2 million a year as a result of these three Free Trade Agreements, \$60.3 million in Iowa's Fifth Congressional District alone. In addition, the Iowa Farm Bureau has projected that enactment of these three Free Trade Agreements will lead to the creation of 1,460 new agriculture-related jobs in the state, including 542 in the Fifth Congressional District.

Prominent supporters of the Free Trade Agreements in Iowa include: Gov. Terry Branstad; Secretary Bill Northey, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Director Debi Durham, Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress; Director Theresa Wahlert, Iowa Workforce Development; the Iowa Farm Bureau; the Iowa Soybean Association; the Iowa Corn Growers Association; and the Iowa Pork Producers.

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